Capps elected as chairman of standards board

Kenneth M. Capps, Senior Vice President of Engineering and Operations at SMECO, has been elected to serve as chairman of the board of directors of ReliabilityFirst Corporation. ReliabilityFirst is the organization responsible for setting, monitoring, and enforcing electric reliability and security standards for the bulk power system in 13 states and the District of Columbia.

The board has 14 directors representing suppliers, transmission companies, regional transmission organizations, and small, medium, and large load-serving entities.

Capps has served as an at-large member on the board of ReliabilityFirst since 2006 when the organization was first formed. For the past two years,
SMECO recognizes new vice presidents

Three SMECO employees were recently appointed as vice presidents. Bill Lawman, Rose Pickeral-Brown, and Eugene Bradford have served the cooperative and its customer-members for a collective total of 88 years.

Each of the new vice presidents is a valuable member of the SMECO management team, and each has been instrumental in guiding our co-op employees through significant changes.

Bill Lawman, Vice President of Electric Operations and Construction, serves an integral role in leading the operations team on a day-to-day basis, as well as through the severe storms that wreak havoc on Southern Maryland. During widespread outages, Lawman plays a major role in directing our crews to restore power quickly and safely.

Rose Pickeral-Brown, Customer Care Vice President, leads the customer service efforts of the cooperative. She manages our state-of-the-art Contact Center and helps guide the Contact Center team in providing award-winning customer service to the co-op’s members. She has a special ability to bring out the best in the people she works with.

Eugene Bradford, Rates and Energy Procurement Vice President, was instrumental in helping the cooperative transition from a sole-source power supplier to a diverse portfolio of suppliers and contracts. Bradford also oversees economic analyses, load forecasts, and financial forecasts.

Capps served as vice-chair of the board and chair of the compensation committee.

As chairman of the ReliabilityFirst board, Capps will preside over all its board meetings. He will take an active role in shaping and overseeing the strategic direction of the organization, serve as liaison between the president & CEO of ReliabilityFirst and the other directors, represent the organization at NERC meetings, and consult with ReliabilityFirst member companies on various matters. ReliabilityFirst is one of eight Federal Energy Regulatory Commission-approved reliability organizations in the United States.

Capps was promoted to senior vice president of engineering at SMECO in 2003. In this role, he is responsible for electric operations for the cooperative. He ensures that the cooperative’s transmission and distribution capabilities meet existing and projected needs. He oversees the construction, operation, and maintenance of all transmission, substation, and distribution facilities while ensuring reliability of the systems and maintaining compliance with all industry and safety regulations.

Ken Capps is invested in the future of his field. Here he speaks with members of the Robobees Robotics team at the Southern Maryland VEX League Championship—Senior Division at CSM in 2013.
The third annual SMECO 75 bike ride is fast approaching

SMECO is hosting its third annual 75-mile bicycle ride beginning at the headquarters building in Hughesville on June 7, 2014.

The route for the SMECO 75 ride includes two segments of the Three Notch Trail and a portion of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail on-road bike route. The ride will feature a 75-mile route for experienced riders and two shorter routes, as well. We will feature four rest stops, which will be stocked with appropriate fuel for bike riders, and lunch at the finish. Participating riders will also receive event-themed items. All proceeds will be donated to the Wounded Warrior Project, which offers programs and services to meet the needs of injured service members. In 2013, the SMECO 75 bike ride generated more than $35,000 for selected homeless shelters in the tri-county area.

Mark your calendars! The SMECO 75 is a perfect opportunity for healthy camaraderie with your fellow customer-members. We will provide more details once registration is available and post updates at smeco.coop/SMECO75.

Polar vortex causes new system peak

On Jan. 7, 2014, in the midst of the polar vortex that put much of the United States on a deep freeze and Southern Maryland in the single digits, SMECO reached a new all-time system peak of 914.9 megawatts (MW). This new peak was approximately 66 MW higher than the last all-time system peak of 848.8 MW on Jan. 17, 2009.

Demand throughout the region was high. PJM Interconnection LLC, the Regional Transmission Organization that operates the electric transmission system serving all or parts of Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia, also broke its record for peak demand last set in 2007. On Jan. 7, PJM set its new record for peak demand at 141,312 MW.

Sustained cold weather during the winter months added with the severe cold weather of the polar vortex will be reflected in the increased energy usage shown on electric bills.
Reminder: scholarship applications are due by 3/7

SMECO is offering $1,500 college scholarships to four high school seniors graduating in 2014 who live with parents or guardians who are SMECO customers.

We would like to remind all eligible high school seniors that completed scholarship application packages (all items must be submitted as one package) are due by March 7, 2014. They may be taken to one of the SMECO offices listed below or mailed to:

Attention: Bernadette Lewis, SMECO Headquarters P.O. Box 1937, Hughesville, MD 20637

For more information or to obtain an application, visit www.smeco.coop, see your school career counselor, call SMECO at 1-888-440-3311, ext. 4340, or visit a customer service desk at the SMECO offices in Leonardtown, Prince Frederick, or Hughesville.

Applicants shall be considered based on the cooperative’s established guidelines without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, age, or handicap.

Where does my dollar go?

There’s been a lot of talk about saving energy to save money. Are you curious about where your electric energy dollar goes in your home? Knowing where your money goes can help you decide on how to adjust usage to save money. Each home varies based on the types of appliances, the heating and cooling method, etc., but a typical breakdown would look like this:

Know your Standard Offer Service (SOS) rate for energy

SMECO is a non-profit cooperative, committed to delivering electricity at the lowest possible price—it purchases power on behalf of its customer-members and provides electricity at cost, with no markup.

SMECO’s residential energy rate (total SOS rate) for January 2014 was $0.1048 per kWh (10.48 cents).

The total SOS rate is the cost for power and it includes the Power Cost Adjustment (PCA), which is sometimes a charge and sometimes a credit. For January, add 0.62 to 0.86 for the total SOS rate of 10.48 cents per kWh.

Try our residential bill calculator to see how kilowatt-hour usage affects bills. www.smeco.coop/customerChoice/sampleResidentialBillCalculator.aspx

March 13
Eat Wings. Raise Funds
Sponsor: Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Chesapeake, Inc.
5 to 11:30 p.m. Buffalo Wild Wings, 11215 Mall Circle, Waldorf. Ten percent of food purchases will be donated. Present a copy of this announcement to your server.
202-680-4138 biglittle.org

March 23
Coach Purse Bingo
Sponsor: Children’s Aid Society
2 to 5:30 p.m. American Legion, La Plata. Prizes (Coach purses), raffle, and desserts. Food available for purchase. All proceeds help needy children in the county. MasterCard, Visa, and checks will be accepted. $ Admission.
301-908-1680 childrens-aid-society.org

March 29
31st Doll Show and Sale
Sponsor: Southern Maryland Doll Club
10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Chin Hamaya Culture Center, 109 A Post Office Rd., Waldorf. Dealers/sales tables, Japanese doll exhibit, doll I.D., raffle, and door prizes. $ Admission.
301-475-3466

St. Mary’s Quarter Throw Down
Sponsor: St. Mary’s School
7 to 9:30 p.m. St. Mary’s School, 13735 Notre Dame Place, Bryantown. Doors open at 6 p.m. Auction begins at 7 p.m. Fee for paddles. Bring your own quarters or buy them at the Throw Down. Ending time may vary depending on amount of auction items.
301-932-6883 bryantown.org
Cuddle up in your comfortable, energy-efficient home

Stay warm while saving energy and money when you take a whole-house approach to energy efficiency. It is possible to get rebates of up to $2,750 for improvements to your home with SMECO’s Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® program.

1. Start with a $100 home energy audit (a $400 value).
2. Review the recommendations and your potential savings.
3. Have your contractor make the improvements you choose.
4. Take advantage of applicable SMECO rebates up to $2,750.
5. Relax in the increased comfort of your energy-efficient home.

Book your audit today! For more information on the Home Performance with ENERGY STAR program or to find a participating contractor, visit SMECO.coop/homeperformance or call 877-818-4094.